



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Chad

Koumakoye To Run for President; Deby on Election

AB3107155595 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] One person has already declared his candidacy for the upcoming presidential elections in Chad. Former Prime Minister Nuradeen Delwa Kassire Koumakoye, leader of the National Rally for Democracy and Progress, said this to Mohamed Issoufou Saliou yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Koumakoye] It is true. I have a firm intention to run for the presidency in Chad. I certainly believe it was the cause of my resignation. My conflict with Idriss Deby attests to this situation.

[Saliou] Officially, have you already announced your candidacy?

[Koumakoye] This is well-known to all, including my party. I am however awaiting the adoption of the Constitution to make an official declaration.

[Saliou] In your opinion, what are your chances of success against the backdrop of the large number of persons claiming to be running for the presidency in your country?

[Koumakoye] I think — considering politics as a kind of sport — there must be a lot of candidates for someone to emerge the winner. I believe, however, that if the elections are conducted under very good conditions, in total transparency, and total freedom, then I shall not hesitate to tell you that I shall be the one who will be elected. [end recording]

Former Chadian Prime Minister Koumakoye, who you have just heard, is therefore a candidate for the upcoming Chadian presidential elections, elections for which no date has yet been fixed, and whose preparations are facing serious difficulties, as recognized by Chadian President Idriss Deby in an interview he granted Jean-Claude Frank Medome. The Chadian head of state also expressed the need to organize the elections within the shortest possible time.

[Begin recording] [Deby] Despite the difficulties, the government must do everything possible within its means to organize the elections within the limits, and the deadline fixed. Why should we refuse the elections? Should we refuse to give the people a say? The people have been waiting for the elections for a long time now.

There is a problem with the setting up of the electoral registration commission. The commission was set up; it was composed of the government, political parties,

and civil organizations. The parties contested this, demanding more than the eight places allocated to them. What do the parties want? There are 53 parties and they want 26 persons to be represented on the commission. There are financial considerations. We also believe that a commission with such a large number of representatives loses its efficiency, and this does not augur well for the country.

Another aspect concerns the armed opposition, supported by the legal opposition, which is demanding a roundtable conference. For us, a roundtable conference means a setback for democracy, and a complete calling into question of the achievements of the Sovereign National Conference. So we are not ready to go on an adventure, but we are ready for all forms of dialogue with the armed opposition so that they can associate themselves with the ongoing democratic process.

[Medome] Do you already have a well-defined plan toward resolving the problem of politico-military groups, a plan with which to initiate dialogue?

[Deby] We have put in place a national commission called a National Reconciliation Commission, composed of government members, political parties, and civil organizations. The commission has worked hard. The return of our brothers of the National Awakening Committee for Peace and Democracy is the work of this commission. As you see, a body has been set up by all the existing political forces with a view to seeking peace and making our brothers of the armed groups understand that the national interest demands that they lay down their arms, and associate themselves with the democratic process. [end recording]

Equatorial Guinea

Obiang: 'All Political Prisoners' To Be Released

BR0208143595 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish
2 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Pilar Marcos: "Obiang Promises Spanish Envoys That He Will Release Moto Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Guinean President Teodoro Obiang yesterday assured the Spanish Foreign Ministry's two special envoys that he will "soon" release all political prisoners, including opposition Progress Party leader Severo Moto. Director General for Africa Miguel Angel Moratinos confirmed to EL PAIS from Bata yesterday that Obiang informed them that he will take "all the decisions to ensure that the democratic process enjoys complete credibility." Last week, Rodolfo Martin Villa, People's Party leader and former deputy prime minister under the Union of the Democratic Center,

gained the same impression. The release will allegedly occur before the period for putting forward candidates for the municipal elections — extended from 4 August to mid August — runs out. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Moto Pardoned

BR0308105595 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2237 GMT 2 Aug 95

[Unattributed report: "Severo Moto's Wife: I Cannot Describe My Happiness"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Madrid, 2 Aug (EFE) — Tonight Margarita Egui, wife of Guinean opposition leader Severo Moto, told EFE that she was unable to describe her happiness when she heard the news that her husband had been pardoned. [passage omitted]

The Guinean opposition leader's wife received the news of her husband's pardon from the embassy just after midnight.

Today Equatorial Guinean President Teodoro Obiang announced the pardoning of Severo Moto, leader of the opposition Progress Party, as well as of all political prisoners condemned on 24 April for an attempted coup.

Obiang made this announcement during the speech he held this evening to commemorate the "freedom coup" of 3 August 1979 which led him to power after ousting his uncle Francisco Macias.

11 Others Granted Clemency

LD0308073095 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network
in Spanish 0700 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night Teodoro Obiang, the president of Equatorial Guinea, granted clemency to the leader of the opposition [Progress Party], Severo Moto, who had been sentenced to 28 years in prison for an alleged offense of treason. The clemency measure also extends to 11 other people who took part in the alleged conspiracy.

In statements to "Spain at Eight", Moto's wife, Margarita Egui, said that her husband may already be free, and thanked international pressure, which — in her opinion — made this measure possible.

[Begin Egui recording] It was without doubt because of international pressure, and especially because of Spain's pressure, and that of France and the United States; it was undoubtedly because of pressure from those countries. [end recording]

Rwanda

Parish Priest, Administrator 'Assassinated'

AB0308104595 Paris AFP IN English 1021 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kigali, 3 Aug (AFP) — A parish priest and a regional administrator, both members of the majority Hutu population in Rwanda, have been killed in separate incidents, Rwanda radio reported Thursday [3 August].

The body of Pie Ntahobari was found Wednesday morning in a banana grove 1.5 kilometres (one mile) from his church at Kamonyi, in central Rwanda, which is around 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of the capital Kigali.

Oreste Habinshuti, a junior administrator in Gikongoro in southwest Rwanda, was found dead on Mwogo Bridge, which links the Gikongoro and Butare regions.

Both victims were killed overnight Tuesday.

Habinshuti was a member of the Christian Democratic Party (FPR), a member of the coalition government of national unity, which is dominated by former rebels of the mainly Tutsi Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF). The RPF's military victory ended last year's genocide of 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus, massacred by the Hutu militia, Interahamwe.

Habinshuti had just lost his job, after a government reorganization of Rwanda's district administrators last Friday.

His death came less than a week after the death of another Hutu administrator, Placide Koloni, whose wife and three children were also killed. Their charred bodies were discovered overnight last Thursday.

Koloni, who was the administrator of the central Rwandan region of Ruhango, was a close associate of Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu — both members of the Democratic Republican Movement (MDR).

As the Kigali authorities announced an inquiry into the killing, the Hutu opposition-in-exile accused a "hard core" within the FPR of being behind the killing.

President of the Assembly for the Return of Democracy (RDR) Francois Nzabahimana, accused former rebel Tutsi extremists of "selective murders" aimed at "intimidating" Hutus who took part in power-sharing with the FPR.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) says the return of some two million Hutu refugees to Rwanda is currently at a complete impasse.

Nzabahimana has accused the FPR of "not wanting to return the refugees", adding: "It is quite obvious that he is trying to turn Rwanda into a Tutsiland."

Relief Worker on Situation in Refugee Camps

BR0208072495 Antwerp GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN
in Dutch 29-30 Jul 95 p 2

[Report on interview with Renauld Coppieters t'Wallant, former Rwandan refugee camp coordinator, by Paul Verbraeken; place and date not given: "Rwanda at an Impasse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Verbraeken] Exactly one year ago we were overwhelmed with pictures of dying Rwandan refugees. Hutus who, after the slaughter of the Tutsis, fled to Zaire out of fear of the Tutsi Army. Today both camps are still rigidly facing one another and even observers are so divided that the most contradictory statements are spread. Meanwhile a Belgian, who has just returned from the camps around Bukavu, is telling a very different story than for example AZG [Doctors without Borders].

Camp Inhabitants Are not Preparing a War

"I do not think that a return of the Rwandan refugees is possible in the short or even in the medium term. This is becoming a Palestinian problem. I do not see a solution. On the other hand I do not agree with claim of AZG that the camps are dominated by the Interahamwe. They would forbid the people from returning and would be preparing for war. I can only talk about what I have seen myself for three months in the camps around Bukavu. I have seen nothing of preparations for war, on the contrary. Anyone who wants to can return but virtually no one does."

The person speaking is Renauld Coppieters t'Wallant, who from 18 April to 18 July was the coordinator of the camps managed by Caritas in the Bukavu sector. In concrete terms that meant managing some 140,000 refugees in six camps, plus a number of smaller camps for "unaccompanied children." Caritas is also responsible for two camps which are very much in view, namely Panzi and Bulongwe, where respectively 11,000 and 6,000 people stay: Former soldiers with their wives and children. In total there are more than 350,000 Rwandan refugees around Bukavu.

A first surprise in Coppieters' testimony is that in contrast to recent frequently alarming reports, there appears to be no under-nourishment in the Bukavu camps. "In the Caritas camps the people get the basic food necessary. In sanitary and medical terms as well everything is provided, although on the medical level we have step in for medicines. But we did sound the

alarm bell in good time when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) [HCR] lowered the food rations," he said.

In part the refugees absorbed that by swelling their numbers. Censuses turn out to be exceedingly difficult because there is a permanent turnover. In part starvation is prevented because here and there they try to grow something themselves. The UNHCR rents parcels of land at \$250 a year for that purpose.

In addition every day Rwandan refugees are still seeping in from Rwanda, Coppieters said. "Not masses, some 30 to 50 every day. Sometimes they are people who returned to Rwanda briefly. However, they are all traumatized by the terror there," he said. These stories speak for themselves. Moreover recently 17 Zairian women, who had gone shopping in Rwanda, were arrested, raped, and only released after two weeks. They gave shelter to Hutus in Zaire.

Diaspora Started

During his stay Coppieters saw only some 15 adults return to Rwanda. In addition, thanks to the international organizations, the family reunion of 14 girls was possible. A few boys aged over 13 and 14 who also could have been reunited with their families in Rwanda refused. Still according to Coppieters, there is no pressure from the camps to prevent people from returning.

Coppieters sees an indication of this in the fact that many people are swarming out to other African countries. Those who can let their children continue to study in Nairobi or Bangui. A large number of these people — obviously wealthier or better educated — want to leave Bukavu. "The Diaspora has started."

Another indication is that languages are being studied on a massive scale in the camps. "Traditionally Rwandans were very closed off and knew no other languages, including Swahili. Now they are learning Swahili in order to integrate, as well as French and English. For example the doctors are studying English because later they will need that in Rwanda, they say."

[Verbraeken] In the meantime AZG and some international reports say that the camps are preparing for war?

[Coppieters t'Wallant] Once again, in my sector I certainly have seen no indications of such a preparation. Not even in the camps of the former soldiers. In my opinion no preparation is taking place. I can only speak of my own experience. On 13 July I myself was in the Panzi camp — scarcely a few meters from the border — when from Rwanda the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] fired at it from Rwanda with machine guns. If there was any preparation or weapons, you could assume after all

that there would then be a response. There was not the slightest reaction. One person died and one was very badly wounded. It is true that afterwards the Zairians claimed that they had replied and that three people died, well, I know what I saw

I also attended the clearance and removal of Birava camp. Ten thousand people. The UNHCR wanted to play safe and had everyone searched: Nothing was found.

On the other hand there are continual RPF "incursions," some two to three such "events" a week. Mostly they are reconnaissances which take place without clashes. We know that fairly well because the Zairian contingent — which has been monitoring the camps for several months with UN money — intervenes very correctly and is very well equipped with communication equipment.

Hate Propaganda

[Verbraeken] So what about politics and the hate propaganda?

[Coppieters t'Wallant] The only politics which I saw was the election of the camp leaderships, under UNHCR monitoring. It is true that the former government and its representatives see themselves as the natural leaders, but they are not recognized as such in the camps. In any case the members of this government are in the better suburb of Kashuba, near the airport. In one year they have knocked up a "trading" camp there where anything can be bought, mainly brought from Dubai.

Nor do I know anything of a "newspaper of hatred." I had a translation made of a sheet which was said to be one by a foreign journalist, but without finding anything.

But I have seen locally active NGO's [nongovernmental organizations] — especially Rwanda 2000 — which are organizing seminars about return and the need for non-violence. Once I learned that a Rwandan doctor was arrested as a "person who committed genocide." That immediately produced the usual commotion between the supporters and opponents of such an arrest. I have also learned that in the north (Goma) the Zairians have banned a political party.

[Verbraeken] But it still remains totally incomprehensible that your story is diametrically opposed to that of others?

[Coppieters t'Wallant] AZG has not been in the Bukavu camps for a long time now. The other side is very handy

in media campaigns. If you know that people include the Panzi camp — which in any case was closed and moved — among those who are said to be prepared to attack, i.e. 11,000 attackers! Although 80 percent of them are women, children, and disabled.

Extremism Hinders Return

In a recently published report AZG said that the Rwandan refugee problem is a hopeless impasse. The increased influence of extremists in the camps and Rwanda itself is fanning the cycle of violence, AZG said. "Between December 1994 and July this year less than 13,000 Rwandans have been repatriated," it said. However, the safe return of the two million refugees is essential to achieve stability and harmony.

In the camps outside Rwanda former functionaries have taken measures to improve the image of these camps, and thus ensure the continuation of aid. AZG's staff have not themselves observed increased militarization, training, or arms supplies to eastern Zaire, nevertheless many of these changes are called superficial. In the camps the same "genocide propagandists" still manipulate by controlling information and political dialogue, and all kinds of organizations are popping up. All these organizations only strengthen the extremist monopoly in the camps.

AZG says it is still faced with a moral dilemma: Giving humanitarian aid to thousands of innocent refugees who live together in the camps with the authors of the genocide, and who are preparing a new military attack. Within AZG this knot has not yet been cut. At the same time AZG criticizes the situation within Rwanda itself, where the Army is weighing on the legal system and the prisons are full to bursting.

Whereas AZG points to the increased influence of the extremists as a reason for the non-repatriation of the refugees, Carol Faubert, HCR representative for Rwanda and Burundi, specifically points his finger at the Rwandan Government's policies.

According to him three quarters of all the refugees would immediately return if Kigali were to make it absolutely clear what the situation is with regard to arrests and the return of property. In addition of course it is also necessary to determine who is responsible for the genocide.

Djibouti

Four Wounded in 'Mysterious' Grenade Attack

AB0308091595 Paris AFP in English
0901 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Djibouti, 3 Aug (AFP) — Four people were wounded in a grenade attack on an open-air restaurant in Djibouti town, the authorities said Thursday [3 August].

Two of the victims are in a serious condition after Wednesday's attack.

The attack took place at about 12:30 p.m. as customers were lunching at the restaurant in a poor district.

A wave of mysterious explosions have hit these districts in the last few months.

Kenya

New KANU Group Launched To Aid Party Recruitment

EA0108202595 Nairobi KNA in English
1440 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nairobi, 1 Aug (KNA) — A new Nairobi KANU [Kenya African National Union] organ calling itself Muungano Group has been launched in the city to organize massive party recruitment drives. The group identified [itself] in a press conference held at Uchumi House.

The group, comprising of 11 leaders, among them former MP's Andrew Mumba [former mayor of Nairobi], Gerishon Kirima and Dr. Peres Olindo, chairman of KWS [Kenya Wildlife Service], Nicholas Gor and Deputy Mayor Ali Mwanzi, said everybody was welcome to join hands in fostering stability in the city. Other leaders in the group include Tom Mula Mula, Andrew Okumu, William Mosanteh, Shem Nambita [and] Shaykh Munyu Alex Oduor.

[They] said in a joint press statement that they have decided to work as a team. Reading the statement on behalf of the group, Dr. Olindo said the city KANU leaders were gravely concerned to note that some donor countries dictated impossible conditions about aid to Kenya and strongly supported the government stand in this matter. [passage omitted]

Safina Registration Ignored; Members Harassed

AB0208200995 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 2 Aug 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kenya's newest political party Safina has not exactly had a smooth ride since it

was set up by Richard Leakey in May. President Moi himself has poured a torrent of abuse on Mr. Leakey, calling him a colonialist and traitor. It's application for registration has been ignored. It's been accused of subversive activities, and of inciting university students to riot. Now, it seems the authorities are cracking down on Safina youth activists, as Louise Thornbridge reports from Nairobi.

[Begin Thornbridge recording] Two Safina members, Wafulo Buke and Kabando wa Kabando, today appeared before a magistrate court where they pleaded not guilty to an unusual charge. They were accused of trespassing with intent to annoy on Nairobi University campus yesterday afternoon. The two, both former student activists, had been having tea with a friend, Law Professor Kivutha Kibwana, whose organization, Clarion, was banned earlier this year after publishing a report on corruption.

Plainclothes detectives met them at the campus gates as they were saying good-bye. All three were frog marched unceremoniously to the central police station nearby, and locked up in cells. Prof. Kibwana was released that evening but the two young men were detained overnight at another police station outside town. Wafulo Buke said he was treated roughly and not for the first time. This was his third arrest since he joined Safina several months ago.

Safina's leadership turned out in force for this morning's proceedings. Secretary general Dr. Richard Leakey sat in the front row while lawyers Paul Muite, Mathurin Kiganu, and Kiraitu Murungi led the defense. The two were released on bail on payment of the 10,000 shilling bond to reappear on 15 August.

However, the case has diverted Safina leaders from an intended visit to the police commissioner this morning to whom they wanted to make an official complaint about the continuing harassment of party members. White Kenyan businessman Robert Shaw said his mail arrived regularly already opened, and that his telephone was tapped. A bucket of excrement was poured on Chairman Mathurin Kiganu's car. All of them now fear for their personal security. [end recording]

2 Detained Safina Party Members Released

EA0208193595 Nairobi KTN Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Two founder members of the unregistered Safina Party, who were arrested yesterday evening, were today released on bail by a Nairobi court. Wafulo Buke and Kabando wa Kabando were charged with trespassing into the University of

Nairobi yesterday. The two, who were represented by their Safina colleagues, Lawyers Paul Muite and Kiraitu Murungi, denied the charge before principal magistrate, (Martin Muya), who released them on a bond of 10,000 shillings with a surety of a similar amount.

Professor Kivutha Kibwana, the dean of the faculty of law, who had been arrested with two former university students, was released last night. [passage omitted]

Somalia

Official Outlines Aims of New Radio Station

EA0208172595 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of Somali Pacification in Somali 1115 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Radio Mogadishu, the Voice of Somali Pacification, is one of the radio stations in the country. Mr. Omar Ahmed Gas, the USC-SNA [United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance] vice chairman said today while briefing local and foreign correspondents. He pointed out that the aim of opening this radio is to inform the Somali people about political and social issues, and that it should not be seen as the creation of something contrary to the common good of Somali people.

Mr. Gas also said that the Voice of Somali Pacification radio is just like the others in the country such as that of Mogadishu, Baidoa, Beledweyne, Boosaaso, and Hargeysa. He said it is absolutely necessary for the Somali people to reach their common good through reconciliation and general development in the political, economic, and social sectors.

Uganda

Yoweri Interviewed—Rejects Political Parties

MS3107084195 London INDEPENDENT in English 30 Jul 95 p 9

[Report on interview with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni by David Orr, in Kampala, date not given: "Sick Man Of Africa Is Very Much On The Mend"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kasese — President Yoweri Museveni's brown shoes precede him by a good hour and a half. They exit by another door, accompanied in a young woman's hands by a neatly folded striped shirt. They reappear gracing the portly figure of the Ugandan president whose sartorial motif is a lichen green suit.

His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni has come to the lush, mountainous region of western Uganda to discuss with local leaders how agricultural production might be improved and diversified. Though a country of enormous potential, Uganda is poor and severely underdeveloped.

There are signs, however, that the "Sick Man of Africa", as Uganda was dubbed after a 20-year reign of terror by Milton Obote and Idi Amin is well on the way to recovery. The economy's consistent growth rate of nearly 6 per cent per annum over the past nine years has secured Uganda the continuing approval of the donor community and the support of the International Monetary Fund whose recommendations it has faithfully followed.

Yesterday the man credited with the remarkable turnaround in his country's fortunes met Britain's Minister for Overseas Development, Baroness Chalker, in the capital, Kampala. She had earlier told President Moi in neighbouring Kenya that his country would receive no new aid from Britain until it made progress on economic and political reforms, and on human rights. But no such harsh words were delivered to President Museveni.

With the exception of the United States, Uganda continues to enjoy the almost unreserved approbation of the West, despite its rejection of multiparty politics.

Talking to the INDEPENDENT before meeting Baroness Chalker, President Museveni reaffirmed his commitment to economic development and to his party-less governance. "Governments in other African countries have given into external pressures to introduce multi-party democracy," he said. "But there's no social basis for parties here because there's really no middle class. Middle class, liberal ideas are the product of Western, industrialised nations but we are living in a backward, pre-industrial society. The peasant is more parochial, more traditional. What is supposed to be liberalism and tolerance actually becomes fragmentation and intolerance when applied to most of Africa."

In June, Uganda's Constituent Assembly (CA) voted overwhelmingly to enshrine this system of government in the country's new constitution. The ban on party politics, introduced by the president when he came to power after a guerrilla war in 1986, is to continue for another five years when a referendum will be held.

Mr. Museveni, who describes his National Resistance Movement government as a popular front embracing various shades of political opinion insists multi-party politics would divide the country along religious and tribal lines.

President Museveni believes the government's priority must be the empowerment of the people through the vote. Uganda is to hold presidential and parliamentary elections early next year. The results of the last general election, held 15 years ago, was disputed and led to the five-year guerrilla war won by Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army.

"We are only now beginning to teach people that they hold the key to power", says the president. "Power does not come through a tribal chief from God or from the white race. The people must first get used to power through voting. We must deal with one thing at a time.

"It would be very confusing to tell people there must be parties when the majority of the CA says it doesn't want parties. The minority must submit to the majority for the time being. We must remember the people of Uganda are beginners, they're beginning something new."

A graduate in politics and economics at Dar es Salaam University in Tanzania, Mr Museveni went on to develop his radical beliefs fighting for Mozambique's one-time Marxist Frelimo movement in the early 1970s. He was a prominent guerrilla leader of the opposition forces which fought alongside the Tanzanian Army to overthrow Idi Amin in 1979. With 27 men he subsequently launched an insurgency movement to oust Milton Obote who returned for a second despotic term as Ugandan president in 1980.

At 51, President Museveni is both an elder statesman and a influential member of Africa's new generation of

leadership. He rejects the half dozen insurgency groups fighting against him as belonging to the old forces of colonialism and intellectual backwardness.

He models himself as an exponent of the new forces in Uganda's political life: change, modernisation and democratisation.

It is for these reasons that he can also dismiss Uganda's monarchies, which two years ago he reinstated, as "symbolic remnants of the past" and the country's tribal structures as "temporary aberrations". Tribalism "does not represent the real interests of the people. As the economy develops, Ugandans will change from tribespeople to producers. The monarchies will be overtaken in the same way. The British Queen is no longer the same queen she was in the past".

President Museveni's desire for dynamic growth might be outstripping the pace of change in Uganda, still one of the world's poorest nations. But there is little doubt that, as far as foreign donors are concerned, he is making all the right moves.

'Secret' List of Arms Client Countries Provided

MB2807172495 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN
in English 28 Jul-3 Aug 95 pp 6, 10

[Report by Stefaans Brummer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria, Libya, Sudan, Iraq, Yemen...These are some of the 30-odd countries black-listed by South Africa's new human rights-leaning classification of arms client countries. The secret list is published by the MAIL & GUARDIAN [M&G] today.

The classification is a substantial review of earlier versions and appears designed to clear South Africa's reputation as an international arms-dealing skunk. The change from an apartheid-era version revealed by the M&G last December — and in Armscor's [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] attitude to publication of the leaked document — is marked.

When we published the first list, Armscor's initial reaction was to consider interdicting the M&G. But this week, confronted with news that the latest version had been leaked, an Armscor spokesman's only reaction was that publishing it "may contribute to debate".

Armscor, it can be argued, has come a long way in a year of gruelling public exposure by the Cameron Commission, and some soul-searching of its own.

But its ready acceptance of the publication of a document that is supposed to be secret — the "diplomatically embarrassing classification of which countries may and which may not receive South African arms — also reflects that this time, in human rights terms, there is much less to hide.

The M&G first published the 1989 version of Log 17 Pamphlet 19 as it was known, last December, in spite of desperate attempts by Armscor and the National Defence Force to keep it under wraps. When Defence Minister Joe Modise heard of the impending publication, he wanted to interdict the paper on Armscor's behalf, but was persuaded not to.

Modise's decision not to act meant a later comprehensive version, compiled in 1993, could be released by the Cameron Commission in its investigation into Armscor abuses. While that list reflected greater sensitivity to human rights than the 1989 one, it still had no problems in principle with arms to countries like Sri Lanka, Burundi, Nigeria and Morocco, all embroiled in internal conflict, and to the Christian Militia in strife-torn Lebanon.

In the latest classification published today, apart from the complete ban on 31 countries where instability or human rights abuse means arms may be put to illegitimate use, another nine countries may now receive

only "nonlethal" equipment. Lighter restrictions have also been placed on 15 more countries.

Some signs of confusion remain over where democratic South Africa's foreign policy interests lie, yet the new classification contrasts sharply with control arrangements in the final years of apartheid, when a motley assortment of dictators, aggressors and civil warriors were welcome to "buy South African".

Judge Edwin Cameron recommended in his interim report this month that country criteria be "thoroughly overhauled"; that the criteria "should be based, above all, on South Africa's commitment to democracy, human rights and international peace and security"; and that they prevent "the export of arms to repressive and authoritarian regimes".

That overhaul, it appears from the new classification, is already well under way. While the latest classification, a Department of Foreign Affairs rework of the earlier Log 17, has no final status, it is already in use pending Cabinet's finalisation of an arms industry control regime. In "borderline" cases, Modise is consulted by Armscor, the agency statutorily charged with regulating exports, otherwise the document stands.

The new classification was proposed to Cabinet at the end of last year. Apart from reservations about the list's green light for trade with Turkey, Sri Lanka and Indonesia — all three embroiled in armed internal resistance campaigns — consensus was reached that the rest could be implemented in the interim. The three countries remained "on hold".

In March, Cabinet appointed a committee of ministers and deputy ministers, including the ANC's Modise, Ronnie Kasrils, Mac Maharaj, Kader Asmal and Aziz Pahad, the National Party's Chris Fisser and the Inkatha Freedom Party's Joe Matthews, to develop a new policy for the defence industry. A final classification of countries, and criteria for classification, will have to wait until the committee completes its work, which may take months still.

But an indication of the direction Cabinet is taking is the recent example of its pro-human rights stance on weapons to Turkey. When the industry increased pressure for the final approval of export contracts with Turkey for bombs and ammunition worth tens of millions of rands, the decision was taken to put Turkey in Category IV — no sales at all.

Companies like Denel, South Africa's main weapons manufacturing group, complained bitterly of money lost and a figure of R2.1-billion [rands] was banded. It is understood, however, that that figure was based on a potential contract for the G-5 long-range artillery

system, not on an actual contract that had to be cancelled.

But where Denel may have a point is that millions had been spent promoting the G-5 in Turkey. Had there been certainty at the time about Turkey's classification, there would have been no loss. Said Jakkie Celliers of the Institute for Defence Policy: "The lack of clarity and finality, and the related uncertainty, are doing the industry great harm... We are destroying it by default."

Dr Martin Navias of the King's College Department of War Studies in London, an expert on the South African defence industry, this week said it appeared "the issue of human rights is high on the agenda. (The new classification) is very strict, stricter than that of the United Kingdom."

He said it was clear Western concerns — and American demands — had been addressed and that Armscor was "reining in its actions".

Armscor spokesman Krish Naidoo commented: "All parties are working towards a more responsible arms export policy. In keeping with the spirit of consultation, democracy and transparency, at some stage the public should have the opportunity to have an input into this process. Now that you do have the document, its publication may contribute to the debate."

The new classification includes:

— American concerns were an important factor in the complete ban on arms exports to Iran, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Sudan and Cuba. The Foreign Affairs recommendations made it clear South African-American relations could suffer if arms were exported to them. The bans go against South African diplomatic rapprochement with Cuba and Iran since the elections.

— There is a new openness towards stable African countries compared to the 1993 list. Botswana, Mauritania, the Seychelles and Zimbabwe, all partly or completely restricted in 1993, are now unrestricted.

— In spite of South Africa's new diplomatic emphasis on Africa, countries on the continent tinged by war, insurrection or human rights abuse are blacklisted. The Angolan government, in spite of its good historic relations with the ANC, may receive only non-lethal equipment; Lesotho is barred completely "due to the fact that the government of Lesotho has no control over the Royal Lesotho Defence Force"; and Mozambique, another ANC ally, can get only non-lethal weaponry.

Nigeria, formerly approved for South African sales but still a military dictatorship, is banned completely, in spite of South Africa's "constructive" policy towards a settlement in that country; Gambia gets a complete ban

because of its military coup last July; and Burundi and Rwanda, still ethnically explosive, are also completely off-limits. Kenya gets limited restriction status because "there is no press freedom and ongoing ethnic suppression".

— Both Morocco and the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, opponents in the fight for Western Sahara, are classified with no restrictions — but pending a successful outcome to the referendum on the future of the contested land. It appears to be an imaginative solution, where South Africa wants to offend neither human rights sentiments, nor Morocco, which the old government had good relations with and the new one has been careful not to alienate, nor the Saharawi, who have historical ties with the ANC.

— In the Middle East, restrictions are imposed neither on Israel nor on many Arab states. It seems to reflect a search for new markets, while the old are not alienated. It may be asked whether good foreign policy does not demand a choice between potential enemies. The same can be asked about India and Pakistan — both of which are classified with the same Category 11 level of restriction — in the light of the ongoing Kashmir dispute between the two countries. The government is clearly not ready to alienate either.

— In South and Central America, only Cuba and Haiti are completely restricted. The little interest the policy makers seem to have accorded this part of the world may relate to the low level of arms trade between it and South Africa.

How the countries rate

Category I (no arms restrictions): Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Mauritius, Seychelles, Benin, Cape Verde, Senegal, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Eritrea, Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco and the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (but all sales on hold pending peace referendum in Western Sahara), Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Peoples' Republic of China, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia (but since put on hold), Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Macau, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pacific Ocean Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka (but since put on hold), Republic of China, Thailand, Vietnam, United States of America, Canada, Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam, French Guyana, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize,

Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Grenada, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Vatican, San Marino, Malta, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Andorra, Albania, Hungary, Turkey (since changed to IV) Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russian Federation, Belarus.

Category II (some arms restrictions): Comoros, Madagascar, Mali, Cameroon, Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Palestinian National Authority, India, Pakistan, Bulgaria, Romania.

Category III (non lethal equipment only): Angola, Mozambique, Equatorial Guinea, Niger, Zaire, Djibouti, Algeria, Lebanon, Moldova.

Category IV (no arms sales): Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanese Christian Militia, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), North Korea, Cuba, Haiti, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Slovenia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan.

[On page 6 of the same report, the MAIL & GUARDIAN adds the following editorial note: "The MAIL & GUARDIAN has published the full text of South Africa's classification of client countries for arms sales on the Internet. It can be found at our World Wide Web site: <http://www.is.co.za/services/wmail/>."]]

Ramaphosa on Work of Constitutional Assembly

MB0208192895 Johannesburg SABC CCV Television Network in English 1730 GMT 2 Aug 95

[Interview with Constitutional Assembly Chairman Cyril Ramaphosa by Xoli Mazibuko in the SABC parliamentary studio in Cape Town — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Mazibuko] Our focus is on the Constitutional Assembly. This week the Constitutional Assembly announced that the draft bill of rights in the final constitution will be ready in early September, and now again several deadlines apparently have been missed by the Constitutional Assembly, but the chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly is with me in the studio tonight to be able to tell us more if they'll be able to meet the May 1996 deadline. Mr. Ramaphosa, good evening and welcome to you.

[Ramaphosa] Good evening, Xoli.

[Mazibuko] Firstly, one would like to find out if the Constitutional Assembly is still on course.

[Ramaphosa] We are very much on course. We are involved in a lot of work at the moment, and we think we should be able to complete our work next year. We are not able to say at the moment whether we will definitely make the May deadline. We want to assess the situation in January of 1996, when the Constitutional Assembly reconvenes. We will judge by what we will have done during the course of 1995 to see whether we are still able to make that deadline.

[Mazibuko] So in real terms, can you confirm that you are on course, you are likely to meet, say maybe the May 31, 1996 deadline?

[Ramaphosa] We'll try everything we can. Most of our time has been taken up by a number of other processes that have been taking place in our country. First, we had the local government registration process. Parliament had to adjourn to attend to that registration process. Secondly, we've just been working one day, two days a week to allow Parliament to function as the lawmaking body in our country. That has also taken a lot of the time we could have had.

Thirdly, most of our time is going to be taken up by the local government elections. Those elections are going to take up almost two and a half months of the time that members of the Constitutional Assembly could have spent in discussing, negotiating, and processing the submissions that have come forward. But given all that, we think we will still be able to deliver a constitution next year. We will be able to publish the very first rough draft of the constitution later this year, toward the end of October or the beginning of November, to allow our people in this country to discuss this draft over the November, December, and January period. Thereafter we resume our work to debate the various clauses that should go into the constitution.

[Mazibuko] Perhaps one might like to find out, other than the time constraints that you were worried about, did you have any major real problems?

[Ramaphosa] The work of the Constitutional Assembly is getting more and more exciting now. The theme committees that we had to set up, most of them have concluded their work, others are about to conclude their work. They are putting forward their reports and draft formulations that should go into the constitution. The real debate on substantive issues is beginning in earnest now, and I think it will hot up early next year. That's when members of the Constitutional Assembly will be sharpening their arguments in the assembly itself and putting forward the views they will have gathered from

the public in South Africa, from their own political parties. So we are in the very exciting period of the work of this year.

[Mazibuko] While you are having this exciting time, the other people are out there in isolation. The IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] for instance is no longer party to the whole...[pauses]

[Ramaphosa] That is something that we regret very deeply in the Constitutional Assembly. We feel that the IFP should have been here with us, putting forward its views, arguing with all other parties, and helping to enrich this most important document that is going to lay down the future foundation of our country for generations to come. This is a historic moment that the IFP is missing. But even though they are absent from here, we are still taking into account their proposals, their views, as put forward in their submissions. They put forward submissions that ran into hundreds of pages. We have them in the Constitutional Assembly, and we often refer to the submissions that the IFP has made. In some cases we take into account the wisdom that they put forward. Of course, in some cases we don't agree with the views that they put forward, but their views have been taken into account, so in many ways the IFP is part of the constitution-making process even though they are outside of it. We would, however, have preferred them to be with us in the theme committees, in the Constitutional Assembly itself, to enrich this whole process.

[Mazibuko] Can you convince us in your concluding thought that the constitution, or in the draft constitution that you are likely to come up with, will be embodied with all elements of South African life?

[Ramaphosa] The draft, the very first draft that will come out toward the end of October, beginning of November, will be a draft that is complete in terms of the items that should go into the constitution. However, it will not contain all the provisions as agreed. In some cases it will contain provisions as agreed in the Constitutional Committee and the Constitutional Assembly. In some areas it will contain proposals. It will put forward options. In some cases it will have holes, it will have empty spaces where we will be able to explain to the people that this matter has not yet been debated, it will be debated next year. What we would like is to have South Africans to have a complete picture of what their future, final permanent constitution is going to look like. That is the proposal we are going to put forward to the constitutional...

[Mazibuko, interrupting] Mr. Ramaphosa, I'm afraid on that note, thanks very much for coming up to clear us on that issue.

[Ramaphosa] Thank you very much.

Cabinet Approves 'Controversial' Land Reform Bill

MB0208171995 Johannesburg Saffm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cabinet has approved the controversial land reform bill. It was accepted after certain amendments were made to it. These include a new definition of a labor tenant and the extended application of the bill to the whole country. It had previously been focused on the Eastern Transvaal and KwaZulu/Natal.

The South African Agricultural Union [SAAU] said it was totally opposed to the bill, which would give about 30,000 labor tenants the right to acquire farmland they had historically used and occupied.

SAAU President Boet Fourie urged the government to set up a judicial inquiry into the matter, saying that the bill in its present form could receive no cooperation from the SAAU or farmers at ground level.

Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel said there had been a very wide consultation with the SAAU, provincial agricultural unions, and farm workers since May. However, the SAAU said the bill violated undertakings given by President Nelson Mandela on the rights of land owners.

Cabinet Approves New Fund for Violence Victims

MB0308082895 Johannesburg Saffm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cabinet has approved a new fund to assist victims of violence. Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel says the fund, to be known as the president's fund, is an amalgamation of the Social Relief Fund and the State President's Fund. It will give money to violence victims requiring medical treatment or those suffering financial hardship and distress. The fund will be managed by a board of up to 15 people.

13 Independent Trade Unions To Form Confederation

MB0308123595 Johannesburg Saffm Radio Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almost 13 independent trade unions are set to come together under one confederation. The new umbrella body will be known as the South African Independent Trade Unions Confederation. A spokesman for the confederation said the formation of this body came after a number of independent unions

were unhappy about the Labor Relations Bill and some practices by employees.

Police Kill Eight Men in KwaMashu Shootout

*MB0308063495 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0622 GMT 3 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durban Aug 3 SAPA — A shootout between police and residents of KwaMashu township north of Durban on Wednesday night left eight men dead and a policeman wounded, KwaZulu/Natal police said on Thursday morning.

Members of the police's internal stability and firearms units, acting on information that illegal firearms were stashed in the township's a section, arrived on the scene at about 11PM on Wednesday.

Shots were fired at the units from all directions, police said. The policemen returned fire, killing eight men in a house where illegal weapons were later found.

A policeman, wounded in a thigh and hand, underwent an operation in a local hospital on Thursday morning.

Police said they came under fire twice and returned fire both times. In the first exchange, six men were killed. Two alleged attackers died in the second exchange.

Thirteen men were arrested after the shootout. Eight illegal firearms, mainly pistols and shotguns, were seized.

KwaMashu's A Section is a known Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] stronghold. An Inkatha member of the KwaZulu/Natal Provincial Legislature, John Aulsebrook, said on Thursday it was too early to determine if the men killed were linked to the IFP.

South African Press Review for 3 Aug

MB0308125895

[FBIS Editorial Report]

SOWETAN

Call for KwaZulu/Natal 'Political Solution' — Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 3 August in a page 10 editorial says emotion is obscuring the "real issues" in KwaZulu/Natal. "Even what should be a straightforward issue — whether more security forces should be deployed in that province to end political violence and criminality — becomes hugely controversial." Even the death of 36 people at the weekend in KwaZulu/Natal "leads not to consensus on the need to save lives, but to a dispute between the African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] about the need for more troop deployment." Therefore, SOWETAN believes that "without a political solution the many problems of the province will never be solved." The ANC and IFP leaders are urged to "take steps to resolve their political differences."

BUSINESS DAY

Call for Property Rights Clause in Constitution — "The ANC has come a long way since it habitually spouted socialist dogma," so Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom "has good grounds for suggesting that fears and suspicions that continue to prevail about the ANC's commitment to private property have no basis," says a page-14 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 3 August. Nevertheless, "those fears are real among sizeable sections of the population, and that alone makes a property rights clause in the constitution justifiable and advisable."

Angola

Presidency Said Linked to Murder, Corruption

LD0208193895 *Lisbon Radio Renascenca*
in Portuguese to Europe 1600 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Those responsible for the murder of Angolan journalist Ricardo de Melo live at Futungo de Belas [Angolan president's residence]. The accusation comes from another journalist, who directly points an accusing finger at prominent figures in the Angolan presidency, including President Eduardo dos Santos' wife herself.

Diamonds and corruption are the hot issues that cost the life of the director of IMPARCIALFAX. More details from Antonio Pacheco:

[Pacheco] The motives behind the death last year of Ricardo de Melo, director of the Angolan independent weekly IMPARCIALFAX, have never been established. The weekly's investigations and accusations against the regime and against those in power were based mainly on sources in the government and armed forces, and this gave them an uncommon credibility and popularity.

[Unidentified journalist] We did indeed manage to find sources of information in the government. It is interesting that there were people connected with the government or the presidency who would take out certain original documents and bring them to our offices without showing their faces, or would slip the papers under the door, or would pay boys to deliver them to us without revealing who had sent them.

[Pacheco] These were statements by a journalist from IMPARCIALFAX whom we will not identify for security reasons.

According to the same source, the documents that led to the killing of the journalist and the closure of the newspaper are, above all, about matters relating to the Angolan president, to his wife, Ana Paula Santos, and to businessman Jose Leitao:

[Unidentified journalist] The files related to police corruption, human rights violations — committed both by the police and by the armed forces — money laundering, and the diversion of huge sums to international banks abroad — particularly to the Cayman Islands.

The authorization for the transactions to move the money out of Angola could only be given by three people. One of them is President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. The carrier was always the man we used to call the shadow president.

We also investigated President dos Santos' wife and her involvement in diamond trafficking. I myself conducted some journalistic investigations in the Lundas [diamond area of Angola]. During my last investigation in Lucapa — in an area called Calonda — I found a shop which buys diamonds and people there assured me that the shop was owned by Ana dos Santos.

[Pacheco] There you have it. This scandal may have further repercussions because the accusations are beginning to acquire substance and names disclosed.

Sweden Grants 72 Million Kronor in Aid

MB0308110395 *Luanda Radio Nacional Network*
in Portuguese 0600 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sweden has granted Angola 72 million kronor for food aid and reconstruction of the country. A total of 43 million kronor will be used to buy medicines and basic commodities, priority being given to children and women, and reconstruction of rural areas. That amount will also be used for the renovation of roads and mine removal operations underway in the country. Sweden has earmarked 29 million kronor for humanitarian assistance to displaced people and victims of war to be administered by the World Food Program.

Mozambique

French Threaten To Take Back Mine Detectors

MB0208121895 *Maputo Radio Maputo in English*
1100 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite promises to release mine clearance equipment donated by France from a warehouse at Maputo Airport, the Mozambican Defense Ministry has still taken no measures to clear it through customs. A source described by the MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY as well-informed said the 12 mine detectors have been stuck at the airport now for four months. The French Embassy has already issued a threat to take the equipment back and deliver it to some other countries where land mines pose a lethal threat.

The source said the customs clearance should be simple since defense equipment is free of import duties. It is routine paperwork that has not been done or has gone missing somewhere in the bureaucratic pipeline. While the equipment continues gathering dusts and storage charges at the airport warehouse, land mines continue to maim and kill Mozambican peasants.

Cote d'Ivoire**Minister on 'Problem' With Liberian Refugees***LD3107091395 Paris Radio France International
in French 0630 GMT 31 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Back to yesterday's news about the civil war in Liberia and its fall out on neighboring countries, namely the opening in Cote d'Ivoire of the first Liberian refugee camp, something the Ivorian authorities had rejected for six years. Amara Essy, the Ivorian minister of foreign affairs, says it was a matter of gaining control over something that could become a destabilizing factor in the country, in particular because of the rise in banditry in the border regions. He spoke to Christophe Boissbouvier during President Jacques Chirac's recent trip to Africa.

[Begin recording] [Essy] The war in Liberia has consequences on the domestic situation: banditry, fed by sales of weapons to Cote d'Ivoire — because you have all those soldiers bristling with weapons on our borders. So this gives rise to a problem of internal security, it is true. We have a 545 km long border with Liberia, and it is not easy to guard.

[Boissbouvier] Are you asking France for help with Ivorian domestic security?

[Essy] Yes, I think that not only France, but also all those who want to see Cote d'Ivoire stable, and see it as a country that can make a contribution to the development of the subregion — we all have an interest in Cote d'Ivoire enjoying security today, because security is the condition, the sine qua non, of economic development.

[Boissbouvier] Specifically, what could France do in the next few months?

[Essy] Well, there is equipment for security needs — the police, the Army, they need logistical equipment, means of communication. So those are areas where France can help us. [end recording]

Nigeria**Foreign Minister Urges Dialogue With U.S.***AB0208190395 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English
1700 GMT 2 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Chief Tom Ikimi, has called for dialogue between the United States and Nigeria as a way of easing the current tension between the two countries. Chief Ikimi said at several meetings with editorial boards of major U.S. newspapers and magazines that Nigeria had no interest in having confrontation with the United States, with

which it has been [a] long time friend and trading partner. He explained that the head of state, General Sani Abacha, believed in dialogue and was interested in easing the tension between the two countries, which had built up progressively since the annulment of the 1993 presidential elections. He however remarked that the current limited sanctions imposed on Nigeria by the United States would not allow for any dialogue.

During such meetings with the editorial board of TIME magazine and AMSTERDAM NEWS, the minister warned against the imposition of further sanctions on Nigeria, as they would affect the 100 million people of Nigeria most. The minister invited foreign reporters to visit Nigeria and see things for themselves. Chief Tom Ikimi said they would find out that most things were either exaggerated or untrue.

On the issue of coup plotters, Chief Ikimi noted that the head of state, having secured peace and stability in Nigeria would not take any action that would not be in the interest of peace in the country. On the administration's political program, the minister said that the head of state was currently studying the report of the Constitutional Conference, and would announce a full program on 1 October that would lead to peaceful elections. On the issue of drug trafficking and international scams, the minister told the editors that no government had done more than the current one to stamp out those problems but that its efforts had gone unnoticed by the West, particularly the United States.

Official: No Plan for Transitional Government*AB0208183395 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English
1700 GMT 2 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Federal Government says it has no plan to set up a transitional government before handing over to a democratically elected administration. The minister of information and culture, Dr. Walter Ofonagoro, stated this at the launching of the family support program at Ikoro local government area of Imo States. He said that the present administration should be regarded as a transitional one.

Mr. Ofonagoro remarked that the call by a section of the media to make transitional arrangements, suggesting that there is no government as at now when the country was getting ready for free democratization, was diversionary and an act of sabotage. He noted that the same section of the media had been writing about imaginary crisis in the country without any evidence to show for it. He charged the media to engage in constructive analysis of events in the country. [passage omitted]

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